

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 AID-05 /059 W
-----081743 280458Z /11
R 271345Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4614
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MBABANE 1454

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS SREF WZ
SUBJECT: STATUS OF REFUGEES IN SWAZILAND

REF: A) MBABANE 1432 B) STATE 104284

1. IN AN HOUR'S REVIEW OF REFUGEE MATTERS APRIL 26, UNHCR
REP SABITI, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS "DESK OFFICER" FROM GENEVA,
PROVIDED DCM AND ME FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON NUMBERS
AND STATUS OF REFUGEES IN SWAZILAND:

A. NUMBERS - SOUTH AFRICANS

1. ALLEGED PAC MEMBERS (SEE PARA C, BELOW) CAUGHT
IN CRACKDOWN APRIL 8-9: 11 MEN, 1 WOMAN, TOTAL 12.

2. STUDENTS DETAINED IN WAKE OF CRACKDOWN: 10 MEN,
4 WOMEN, TOTAL 14.

3. SECONDARY SCHOOL (THOKOZA) DEMONSTRATORS (EX-SOWETO)
JAILED APRIL 17: 33 MEN, 8 WOMEN, TOTAL 41.

4. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DETAINED APRIL 17 ON OWN
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INITIATIVE (SYMPATHIZERS WITH THOSE IN ACATEGORY A.3):
3 MEN, TOTAL 3.

5. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DETAINED AFTER APRIL 17
ON GOS INITIATIVE: 2 MEN, TOTAL 2.

6. REFUGEES MOVED IN LATE MARCH FROM MPAKA CENTER TO

DETENTION FACILITIES IN AN ACTION THAT COMPLETELY EMPTIED THE
MPAKA CENTER: 30 MEN 3 WOMEN, TOTAL 33.

GRAND TOTAL: 89 MEN, 16 WOMEN, TOTAL 105.

B. NUMBERS - MOZAMBICANS

DETAINED ON SECURITY GROUNDS ON DIFFERENT DATES:
5 MEN, TOTAL 5.

SABITI AGAIN DEPLORED THE RETURN OF 3 MOZAMBICANS
(ALL THREE GPRM ARMY DESERTERS) TO MAPUTO (REF B) WHO HE
THOUGHT MAY WELL ALREADY HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. HE HAS
ASKED HIS ORGANIZATION TO ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT WHAT
HAS HAPPENED TO THEM. SABITI WAS APPALLED AT GOS
CONTENTION IT WAS "INVESTIGATING" TO SEE WHO WAS
RESPONSIBLE.

C. SABITI OFFERED FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON THREE
PERSONS WHO ARE INCLUDED IN PARA A, ABOVE, BUT WHOSE
CHARACTERIZATION AS PAC MEMBERS IS QUESTIONABLE AT
BEST:

1. MRS. NZDIBA. HER LATE HUSBAND HAD BEEN A PAC
LEADER IN SWAZILAND. SHE CLAIMS NEVER TO HAVE BEEN
INVOLVED IN PAC ACTIVITY WHILE HUSBAND WAS ALIVE AND
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TO HAVE HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH PAC SINCE HIS DEATH.
PAC PERSONALITY MKHWANAZI CONFIRMED THIS TO SABITI.

2. JOHN D. MANZI. HIS SON HAD LEFT RSA TO JOIN
HIM IN SWAZILAND. SON WAS PROMISED A SCHOLAR-
SHIP BY ANC AND SENT ABROAD; HE WAS GIVEN MILITARY
TRAINING INSTEAD. SON DESERTED ANC AND RETURNED TO
SWAZILAND. TO AVOID FUTURE TROUBLE WITH SWAZI
POLICE, MANZI REPORTED SON'S RETURN. SON WAS THEN
DETAINED NOVEMBER 1977 ON CHARGE OF HAVING UNDERGONE
MILITARY TRAINING ABORAD (77 MBABANE 2801). SON IS
STILL IN PRISON. FATHER WAS APPARENTLY ARRESTED ON
CONVOLUTED LOGIC THAT SINCE HE HAD NOT WANTED HIS
SON TO UNDERGO ANC MILITARY TRAINING HE (FATHER) MUST
BE MEMBER OF PAC.

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 AID-05 /059 W
-----081730 280456Z /11

R 271345Z APR 78
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3. SYDWELL MKHONZA. ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF PAC HE SEEMS TO HAVE FLUCTUATED BETWEEN ANC AND PAC. HE KEPT GOS INFORMED OF HIS CHANGES OF ALLEGIANCE. GOS APPARENTLY FELT HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH PAC WAS, OR HAD BEEN, SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT DETENTION.

2. STATUS

A. ACCESS. SABITI SAID HE CONTINUES TO HAVE ACCESS TO ALL OF THE PERSONS INDICATED PARAS 1.A AND 1.?, ABOVE. HE WAS AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN GOS FAILURE TO NOTIFY HIM UNTIL AFTER THE FACT OF EH MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM ONE DETENTION FACILITY TO ANOTHER. SABITI SAID FAMILIES ARE STILL DENIED ACCESS TO DETAINED REFUGEES.

B. MEDICAL. DR. DAVID HYND, LONG-RESIDENT LOCAL NAZARENE LEADER WHO IS MEMBER OF GOS REFUGEE COMMITTEE, VISITS DETAINEES TO DETERMINE ADEQUACY OF MEDICAL CARE AND GENERAL WELFARE.

C. SUPPLIES. SABITI'S OFFICE HAS NECESSARY FUNDS FOR BUYING CLOTHING AND TOHER NECESSITIES FOR REFUGEES.
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THE ONLY FOOD GOS PRESENTLY ALLOWS HIM TO SUPPLY IS FRUITS.

D. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. UNHCR HAS AUTHORIZED HIRING OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES. THIS WAS CURRENTLY BEING ARRANGED. HE NOTED ONE OF THE DETAINEES WAS A

LAWYER WHO SAID THE GROUP OF ALLEGED PAC MEMBERS (PARA 1.A, ABOVE) WAS HELD UNDER 1974 IMMIGRATION ACT, SECTION 9.(1)(G). SABITI NOTED THAT IF TRUE THEY WERE STILL ENTITLED TO FAMILY VISITATION, OUTSIDE FOOD DELIVERIES AND A JUDICIAL TRIAL--THINGS NOW DENIED THEM. OTHERS PARA 1, ABOVE, ARE REPORTEDLY BEING DETAINED UNDER 1973 KING'S PROCLAMATION.

3. FUTURE. SABITI EMPHASIZED THAT HIS PRIORITY OBJECTIVE WAS TO FIND COUNTRIES WILLING TO RECEIVE REFUGEES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THOSE COUNTRIES WILLING TO ENROLL THEM. IN AN EFFORT TO FACILITATE THIS ONWARD MOVEMENT AND PLACEMENT WE VOLUNTEERED TO SEND LETTER TO PM MAPHEVU URGING THAT STUDENT REFUGEES NOT BE PI'D (REF A). SABITI THOUGHT THAT THE GOS WOULD RELEASE THE SECONDARY SCHOOL (EX-SOWETO) DEMONSTRATORS (PARA 1.A.3, ABOVE) IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN GOS CASE FOR NEW UNHCR-FINANCED REFUGEE SCHOOL. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT GOS HAS MADE ITSELF UNPOPULAR WITH REFUGEES AND HE FULLY EXPECTED THE LATTER TO PRESS HARD TO LEAVE AND STUDY ELSEWHERE. AS INDICATION OF GOS UNPOPULARITY SABITI NOTED THERE HAD BEEN NO NEW REFUGEE ARRIVALS FOR MORE THAN A MONTH.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH PM AFTERNOON APRIL 27 WHEN WE PLAN TO CONVEY HUMANITARIAN CONCERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABOUT GOS HANDLING AND TREATMENT OF REFUGEES. WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THAT MEETING THE CRITICAL NEXT STEP IN GIVING CONCRETE DIMENSION TO THAT CONCERN IS TO ASSIST IN ONWARD MOVEMENT AND PLACEMENT OF STUDENT REFUGEES. TIMELY RESPONSE TO MBABANE 1387 IS KEY TO OUR ABILITY TO MOVE PROMPTLY. NORLAND

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MBABAN01454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780181-0682
Format: TEL
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780410/aaaaahzj.tel
Line Count: 212
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9343b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MBABANE 1432, 78 STATE 104284
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2815521
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF REFUGEES IN SWAZILAND
TAGS: PINS, SREF, WZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9343b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014